

Anne Arundel County

Special Exception - Light Industrial and Heavy Industrial Zones.

18-11-132. Natural wood waste recycling facilities.

Natural wood waste recycling facilities shall comply with all of the following requirements.

- (1) The facility shall be located on a lot of at least five acres.
- (2) All vehicular access to the site shall be from a collector road, an arterial road, a freeway, or a local road that serves only industrially zoned or commercially zoned property between the facility entrance and the first intersecting collector road, arterial road, or freeway in all directions.
- (3) Composting shall be on an impervious surface.
- (4) Storage of compost shall be on a surface that is adequately drained or under cover.
- (5) Processing and loading areas and all areas for storage of material shall be surrounded by fencing that contains all windblown litter, is at least six feet in height, and is secured by a gate to prevent unauthorized entry.
- (6) The processing areas, parking and loading areas, and areas for storage of mechanical equipment shall be located at least 300 feet from any residentially zoned or residentially developed property.
- (7) Processed natural wood waste shall be stored in windrows not more than 10 feet high and 20 feet wide or static piles not more than 20 feet high.
- (8) Unprocessed natural wood waste stockpiled onsite may not occupy more than 25% of the site.
- (9) Space on the site shall be adequate so that trucks using the facility are not stopped or parked on a road right-of-way.
- (10) Except in a W3 District, hours of operation shall be limited to 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- (11) The sound level at any residentially zoned or residentially developed lot line may not exceed an average of 55 dBA or a peak of 60 dBA.
- (12) The facility shall maintain a 100-foot buffer between parking, loading, storage, processing, and building areas and existing streams and wetlands.

(13) Material processed onsite and transported offsite as recycled material may be no less than 70% of the total amount of material received in any 12-month period.

(14) The facility shall be operated in a way that manages odor, and excessive odor may not be detectable within 100 feet from the lot line.

(15) The facility shall maintain onsite records specifying the date, type, and amount of material received, its place of origin (Anne Arundel County or out-of-County), and the amount of material transported offsite in accordance with subsection (13), such records to be available for inspection by the County.

(16) Semiannual reports detailing the information contained in the reports kept under subsection (15) shall be completed on a form provided by and submitted to the Department of Inspections and Permits.

This is the AACo definition for farming. It is permitted by right in all residential districts but our chief agricultural district is the RA zone. Outside storage as an accessory use is limited to the lesser of 10% of the allowed lot coverage or 500 square feet. There is no direct reference to mulch or wood in the Code.

(34) “Farming” means the use of land for agricultural purposes, including agriculture, apiaries, horticulture, orchards, agricultural nurseries, viticulture, aquaculture, forestry (including silviculture), animal and poultry husbandry, and primary agricultural processing. For purposes of this definition:

(i) “aquaculture” means the farming or culturing of finfish, shellfish, other aquatic plants or animals, or both, in lakes, streams, inlets, estuaries, and other natural or artificial water bodies or impoundments, including hatching, cultivating, planting, feeding, raising, and harvesting of aquatic plants and animals; and

(ii) “primary agricultural processing” means the processing of an agricultural product in the course of preparing it for market, including cutting, drying, packaging, canning, milling, grinding, freezing, heating, and fermenting.